

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 78, No. 9 October 1996

Black Ties Not Required, Just Collars

by John Gibbins

All was peaceful for the nesting colony of Great Blue Herons at Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park until on June 26, they were paid a visit by some rather unwelcome guests – raccoons. Fortunately, the masked bandits had arrived too late, for their expected dinner of heron eggs and young had already flown the coop. In fact, five new herons were fledged from the seven existing nests. That makes this the most productive season for the colony since they began nesting on the

small island at Stow Lake in 1993. The nests are easily seen just a short distance from the snack bar at the lake where they have delighted thousands of park visitors. The presence of the raccoons, however, can reduce breeding success and cause the birds to abandon the site.

Golden Gate Audubon Society and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory (SFBBO) are working together to have raccoon-proof collars installed around the base of the island's trees before the nesting season begins in November.

"We will be installing 35 collars on 29 different Monterey Cypress and Pines on the island," reports Nancy DeStefanis, project coordinator, as well as the San Francisco site coordinator for the Colonial Waterbird Monitoring Program of the SFBBO. She explains that there are more collars than trees because many trees have 'raccoon accessible' branches which also need collars. "We also need to collar every tree on the island," she says, "since we don't know if new nests will be added by the birds this next season."

The tree collars, made of sheet metal, work just as squirrel guards on a feeder do. The collars will be installed, DeStefanis explains, with the help of volunteers starting September 14. The metal tree-guards will also be coated with camouflage paint to make them less conspicuous. Lee and Walt Woodall, owners of



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When I spotted a bird fluttering forth from the big pine tree to snag a butterfly, I expected it to be a flycatcher or a warbler. Surprisingly though, it was a White-breasted Nuthatch in hot pursuit of some protein. I had become used to seeing them grabbing sunflower seeds and taking them to a branch to hammer open, or scouring the bark for insects. I guess that I can now add 'fly catching' as one of the nuthatch's food-gathering techniques.

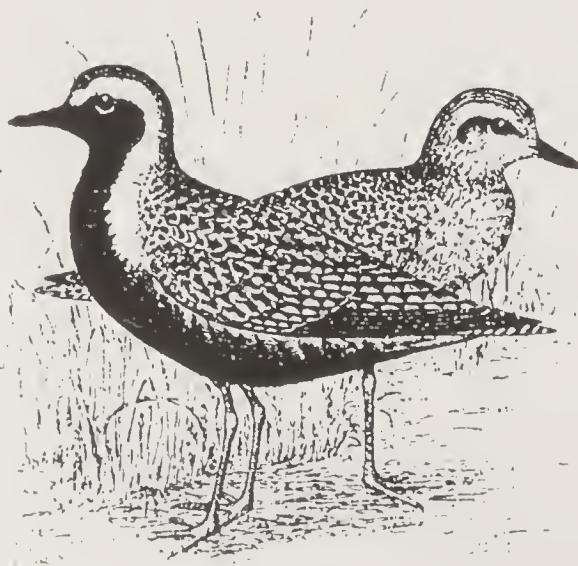
Birds enjoy a tremendous variety of foods, including both plant and animal life. Even 'seed-eating' birds feed their young live protein. Being opportunistic feeders, most birds are somewhat adaptable, adjusting their taste buds to what is available. Diets can change from season to season or even year to year, as when there might be a rodent population explosion, or when the 17-year cicadas hatch. Then certain birds will flourish. Notable exceptions include the Snail Kite and the Limpkin, birds which eat the fresh water snails of the Everglades. Since they eat little else, they are at risk if their food becomes unavailable.

There is hardly an 'insect' habitat or niche that doesn't have its feathered, bug-eating counterpart. There is almost no area of land that is overlooked as birds eat, eat, eat to live. You might notice that they can all succeed because they cover different habitats and even different levels

of territory, from the treetops to the forest floor.

When reading, I've often wondered how scientists know just what various species eat. In times past it was common for them to "collect" birds and then examine their stomach contents. That is practically unthinkable these days; unless a bird is found dead we have to rely on observation. In certain cases, as with raptors and owls, pellets make it simple to determine preferred foods.

Over the years, if we keen observers of bird life notice some peculiar dietary delight in a certain bird's realm, we might slowly be able to add to the scientists' knowledge. Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology frequently puts out a cry for help to birders to man their feeding stations for a few hours a day and report their findings. If this appeals to you, I'm sure they'd be thrilled to have your input and it would "force" you to birdwatch everyday! Happy spying!



Become an Armchair Activist

Any bird can become a tough bird by joining Audubon's Archair Activists. All it involves is a 1/2 hour commitment once a month. You write one letter to your political representative based on the issue that is sent to you. It may be a national one such as the salvage logging rider, or a state one like the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in Southern California. Even local issues can sneak in!

All you have to do is send your name, address and phone number to the GGAS office addressed to Carolyn Kolka. It's easy!

Fernwood Bird Food

donated by World-Renowned Avian Chef, Caroline Lichtenstein

Ingredients:

1 part peanut butter
1 part vegetable shortening
1 1/2 - 2 parts dry ingredient (cornmeal, cracker crumbs, oatmeal, ect.)
1 part imported sun-dried tomatoes (optional)

Preparation:

Mix into a stiff dough. Raisins, honey, or chopped nuts may also be added at holidays and special occasions! Spread onto tree trunks or pine cones and garnish with Italian Parsley
Best served at a seasonal temperature accompanied by a fine vintage spring water

A Forest, Not Timber!

by Arthur Feinstein

Early June I attended the National Audubon Society Convention held in Washington, D.C. It was a wonderful event, great speakers, a chance to meet our very capable New York and Washington, D.C. staff and best of all a chance to meet hundreds of other Auduboners.

I was most affected, however, by a speech presented to us by the Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman (and what a surprise to have a Cabinet Member address the National Audubon Society, even more that it would be the Secretary of Agriculture, and even more that he talked for half an hour about wildlife and birds and the need to protect them and their habitat.

In this speech Secretary Glickman spent some time on the timber issue. He expressed regret for the timber rider on the rescission bill that is allowing timber companies to once again destroy our forests under the guise of "salvaging" burnt or diseased trees.

He then cited some figures on the economics of our forests. He said, "By the year 2000, our national forests will generate more than \$130 billion for America's gross domestic product. It's worth breaking that number down, so we recognize all of the contributions our forests make to our economy:

- \$97.8 billion will come from recreation;
- \$12.9 billion will come from fish and wildlife

- and, \$3.5 billion will come from timber."

What an amazing discrepancy! The recreational use of our

What's the Real Story Behind the Decimation of Our Forests by Logging?

National Forests produces about 95% more income than the timber industry, yet all we hear about is the loss of jobs from reductions in logging. Surely loggers are justified in fearing the

loss of their jobs. But from a national perspective the above numbers make it clear that many, many more jobs will be lost if our forests continue to be clear-cut and destroyed.

With such a gross imbalance in the economics of the use of our National Forests one cannot help but be amazed at the strength of the timber industry in the media and in Congress.

It would be very helpful if you could sit down for a minute and write a Letter to the Editor in your local paper citing these numbers and asking that our forests be preserved for their true economic value (as forests, not as timber). A similar letter to the President and to your legislators would also be helpful.

Your federal legislators' address are:

Representative _____

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator _____
(Dianne Feinstein or Barbara Boxer)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Your state legislators' addresses are:

Assemblyperson _____

State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senator _____
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

The President's address is:

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500



August 1 to September 5

Shorebirds and seabirds provide many of the highlights for this month's column. There were many pelagic trips during the course of the month and all reported high numbers of Pelagic birds offshore with some exceptional highlights. Shorebird migration continued in earnest and by the middle of the period Western migrants were being detected moving south in strong numbers particularly along the coast.

Albatrosses to Boobies

Large numbers of Albatross continued to be seen offshore during the many pelagic trips which took place during the month. California's first Short-tailed Albatross in 11 years was found at the Cordell Bank on Aug. 5, (DN), an immature bird. This species' numbers continue to rise world-wide after coming perilously close to extinction. It is now believed that the world population exceeds 250 birds, (per Small).

Laysan Albatross were reported from most trips, especially those to the Cordell Banks while a count of 375 Black-footed Albatross on Monterey Bay on Aug 4 was the highest August total ever, (DLSh).

The season's first Flesh-footed Shearwater report was that of a single bird on Sept. 1 on Monterey Bay, (DLSh). Northern Fulmar and Buller's Shearwaters were also present offshore in good concentrations while there were also a few scattered reports

of Short-tailed Shearwater. Manx Shearwaters were found on Monterey Bay, Aug 11 & 18, (DLSh) while another was seen from Pigeon Point, SM on Aug 21, (PJM). One of the month's most exciting reports this month was that of a Dark Rumped Petrel, (*Pterodroma phaeopygia*), seen

Golden Gate Goes Online!

GGAS now has its own Web Page up and running. The page is currently part of National Audubon's Home Page and can be found at - www.audubon.org/audubon/ggasindex.htm.

This site contains many of the articles from the Gull with some other interesting pieces. It is our hope to update this page at least monthly. We would love to receive photos, general and rarities, drawings etc. to add to and enhance this page visually. Please contact me if you would be willing to contribute any of the above.

My thanks to Peter Rauch, Paul Walker and Evette Mezger for their assistance in getting this under way. Please feel free to check it out. All comments, suggestions and even criticisms would be readily appreciated.

Hugh Cotter

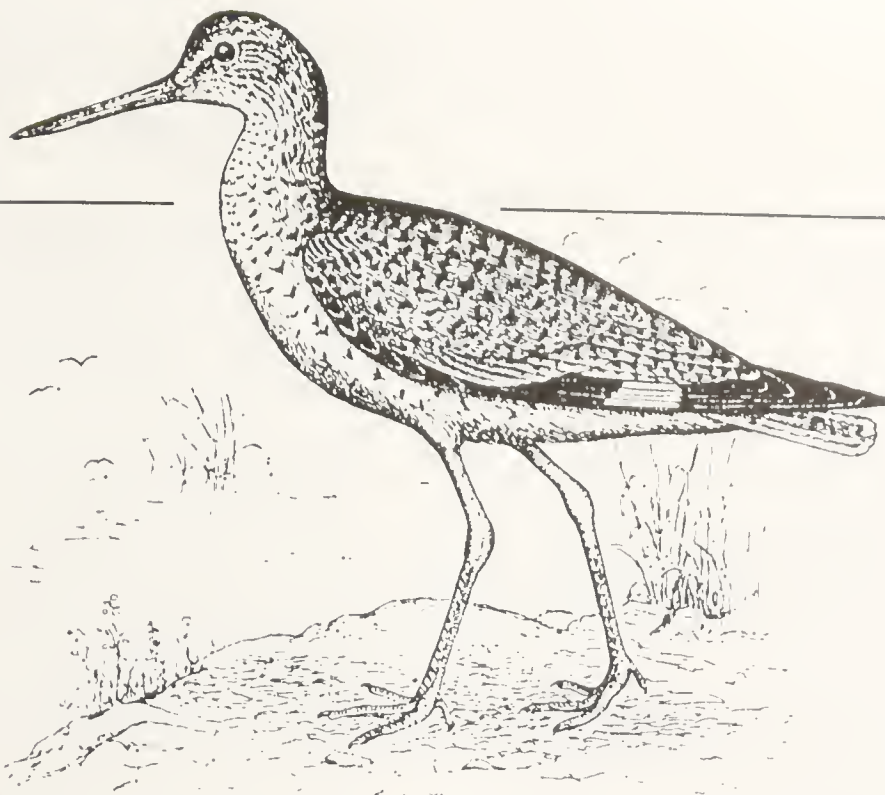
Aug. 24 close to the boat during a pelagic to the Cordell Banks, (DLSh). This record is potentially only the fourth record for the US for this tropical Pacific species. In California there has been one previously accepted record, that of one seen and photographed off Monterey on June 26 1994.

Another submitted record for one observed 69 miles off Point Reyes in May 1992 has not yet been accepted by the CRBC.

A Murphy's Petrel was also seen close to the boat on this same trip in addition to a huge total of 7680 Ashy Storm Petrels, which would include most of the entire population, all of which made for a memorable day on the sea. The first report of Wilson's Storm Petrels was that of 15- 20 birds, Aug. 6 at the Cordell Banks, (DN). A Tropicbird Sp. was reported Sept 1, (DLSh) during a trip to the Albacore Grounds while a Brown Booby was reported by a boat Skipper in the Golden Gate Channel on Aug 2, is potentially the first record for Marin County, (fide RS).

The shorebird highlight this month was a juvenile Mongolian Plover found in Bodega Bay on Sept 2/3, (DN) This species is an exceedingly rare transient in California. Indeed there are currently only five accepted records for this species in California, and this being the first record since 1992.

Pacific Golden Plover began building up at the Spaletta Plateau, PRNS as the month progressed, with up to 6 birds reported, (JM). Single birds were



also reported from Sonoma, Humboldt, San Mateo and Yolo counties. Up to 2 American Golden Plover were also present at the Spaletta Plateau during the period. The only Solitary Sandpiper reported was that of one at the Carmel River Mouth, MTY on Aug. 18, (SM). Stilt Sandpipers were found in Marin, Solano and Santa Clara Counties while good numbers of Baird's and Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported from many locations during the month. However Pectoral Sandpipers proved to be much more scarce.

An immature Franklin's Gull appeared at the Coyote Creek Riparian Station, SCC on Aug 20, (AJ). In Arcata a surprise returnee was the White-winged Tern, (last seen end of June), at the Arcata Marsh Project, Arcata, HUM. This bird was found again on Aug 27 (DFx) and remained until the 29th when it again disappeared. Although pretty much still in alternate plumage it was beginning to show the first signs of molt by the end of its stay.

Black Skimmers were again reported this month from Contra Costa County and also Solano County, (incidentally the first county record).

Doves to Sparrows

Three White-winged were reported from Monterey and Marin Counties. A Scissor Tailed Flycatcher was found at the James Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Half Moon Bay, SM on Sept. 5, (DK), this bird is always a pleasant sight. An interesting report was that of up to 90 Purple Martins at the Bear Valley Trail Head, PRNS, Aug. 17, (RS). A "flighty" immature Yellow Wagtail was found at the Arcata Marsh Project, Arcata, HUM on Aug 27, (DFx). Unfortunately it did not remain for many to see it. This species is still an exceedingly rare vagrant in California. There are approximately only 12 accepted records for this species to date.

A Red-eyed Vireo continued at the Phipps Country Store, Pescadero with other birds found at Pine Gulch Creek, Bolinas, MRN, Aug 24, (KH) and another at PRNS on Sept. 4, (RS). While good numbers of Western warbler species were reported at many locations from about the middle of the month "unusual" species were somewhat scarce this month. Highlights for this period include; Virginia's Warblers, Aug. 25 in Pescadero, SM, (RST) and Aug 26 at the

The monthly *Observations* column is generated from reports made to the Northern California Bird Box or to the author. Some sightings are unconfirmed and numbers of birds are often best regarded as estimates or "best guesses". In general, birds in boldface are very rare in our region, geographically or seasonally. Many of these are currently reviewed by the California Bird Records Committee (CBRC). Observers are encouraged to provide written and/or photographic documentation to the CBRC, c/o Michael Patten, P.O. Box 51959, Riverside, CA 92517-2959 for any species currently on the review list. A list of review species can also be obtained from the CBRC secretary at the address above.

This data is made possible by all the observers who contributed their reports to the Northern California Bird Box.

Abbreviations for Observers: JB; Jim Booker, KB, Ken Burton; JC; Josiah Clark, JD, Jim Danzenbaker; TEa, Todd Easterla; JE; Josh Erdman, ME, Mike Feighner; AF; Anthony Fisher; GG; Gene Gerlach, SG, Steve Glover; RH, Rob Hewitt, VH, Vernon Howe, RHa, Roger Harshaw, RH; Ray Hudstaff, NL, Nick Lethaby; BM, Bert McKee; JM, Joseph Morlan; DPM; Dan Murphy, RP; Roy Poucher, PP; Peter Pyle, DR; Don Roberson, SR, Steve Rottenborn; KS; Keith Slauson, RS, Rich Stallcup; RST, Ron Thorn, JW, Jerry White

Abbreviations for counties: ALA, Alameda; CC, Contra Costa; HUM, Humboldt; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MTY, Monterey; SF, San Francisco; SJ, San Joaquin; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SON, Sonoma; YOL, Yolo.

Andrew Molera SP, MTY, (BM), a Northern Parula and Mourning Warbler at Ferndale, HUM, on the 27th, (SMcA), Chestnut-sided Warbler at PRNS on Sept. 4, (RS), and Prairie Warblers at Moss Beach, SM on Aug 26, (RST) and Aug. 27 at Humboldt Bay, HUM, (JH). A pair of Canada Warblers was reported from the Fish Docks, PRNS on the 26th (JW) while a Northern Waterthrush was at Montara on Sept. 4, (DK). Scattered reports of Black & White Warblers and American Redstart came from various coastal counties while the first Rose-breasted Grosbeak reported this fall was an immature male at PRNS on Sept. 4, (KMck). The first Clay Colored Sparrow of the season was reported Aug 30 from the Andrew Molera SP, MTY on Aug. 30, (JB)

Fly South For The Winter!

The Panama Committee has invited Borja Mila to speak at their October 14 meeting. All Golden Gate Audubon Society members are also invited to attend. Borja has worked with Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) on their Panama survey for the Department of Defense. PRBO is responsible for identifying birdlife in the canal lands

before they are turned over to that country in 1999. He will update us on some of the threats to birdlife and the environmental value of those lands for the future.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 at 76 Hillcrest Rd., Berkely. If you have any questions or need information, call Miles McKey at (510) 652-5854.

Help bring Audubon to everyone! Join the Education Committee

My name is Louise Harm and I am the new Education Chair for Golden Gate Audubon. I believe the only way we can truly

conserve our natural resources is by working together to teach our children to love them as we do. Currently, I teach at a small Montessori elementary school in Berkeley, where I am responsible for the biology curriculum. I am also an ex-camp counselor, a job where I had the pleasure of introducing children to the wonders in Tilden Park and the Berkeley Marina. There are many directions we can take education through our Audubon chapter. If you have ideas or time to share, or are simply interested in hearing what could happen with education and GGAS, please come to an initial committee meeting on Monday, October 21 at 7:30 at the chapter office. I look forward to meeting you.

Christmas Bird Count Dates

Mark your calendars now!

Oakland Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday, Deceber 22

San Francisco Christmas Bird Count will be on Friday, December 27

Stay tuned for more details in next month's *Gull*.

Welcome Families! Louise Harm

A new trip alternative focusing on families with children will kick off the new education program this fall. Join us for short walks with stops for nature activities and games. We will meet in local Bay Area parks after which we will have time for play and conversation at a relaxed B.Y.O. picnic. For our first event, I will lead a walk around Jewel Lake in the Tilden Nature Study Area in Tilden Park on Saturday, October 19 at 10:30 with a picnic following. Jewel Lake is host to many Mallard families, and we may see some turtles sunning themselves. The Little Farm (perfect for younger children) is near-by as is the Tilden Nature Center which features outstanding exhibits highlighting the East Bay watershed area. Please bring a picnic lunch and join us for a fun family outing. We look forward to seeing you.

Directions to Tilden Nature Study Area:

In Berkeley, drive north on Spruce to the intersection of Spruce, Wildcat Canyon, Grizzly Peak and Canon Drive. Cross the intersection and make a quick left on Canon Drive, down the steep hill. At the bottom of the hill turn left and follow the sign for the Little Farm. Park and meet us at the entrance to the Tilden Nature Study Area.

How's the San Francisco Estuary Doing?

The San Francisco Estuary Project will hold its third biennial 'State of the Estuary Conference' on October 10, 11, and 12, 1996 at the Officers' Club in the Presidio of San Francisco. The conference will be of interest to all people concerned about the environmental health of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary. It will provide an update on the current state of the estuary through technical presentations, policy discussions, poster sessions, Dr. Science, innovative management programs, a progress report on CCMP implementation and more.

The technical sessions will address issues related to biological resources, wetlands, land use/watershed management, contaminants and impacts from

reduced freshwater flows. Theodore Strong, executive director of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission and a member of the President's Council on Sustainability, will address the conference on Saturday on the topic of "Creating Sustainable Communities."

Special attention has been given to make the entire conference of interest to everyone possible. Lunch is included in the registration fee which also includes a State of the Estuary Report, CCMP workbook and Abstract Book.

The cost to attend is \$175 for three days, \$150 for Thursday and Friday, or \$40 for Saturday. For registration information, call the San Francisco Estuary Project at (510) 286-0460.

Gifts And Bequests

For GGAS:

Eugenia Hull, Elizabeth Pulling, Siamack Sioshansi, plus three anonymous, but greatly appreciated donations.

For Birdathon:

Andrew McKey, Mary and Miles McKey, and George Peyton, Jr.

For the Tropical Ornithology Course Scholarship:

Daisy Uyeda

In Memory Of:

Brad Coryell
Dorothy Duffie



Volunteer Opportunities

Are You Looking for Something Meaningful to Do?

If you've been reading our Newsletter, the Gull, over the last year you know that Golden Gate Audubon (GGAS) has been a very active chapter. Taking our members on over 75 field trips, holding two Christmas Bird Counts, fighting to save wetlands, saving Aquatic Park in Berkeley for our waterfowl and restoring 71 acres of wetlands in San Leandro Bay, struggling to save the endangered California least tern and its colony on the Alameda Naval Air Station, we've been active, indeed. And that's just some of our activities!

Yes, we do a lot and it takes folks like you to make it happen. It is the volunteers of GGAS that make it one of the nation's most successful Audubon Societies. And right now we are in big need of volunteers.

The time commitment varies from just a few hours a month to a few hours a week. It's a wonderful and enjoyable experience, you'll meet wonderful folks and undertake rewarding jobs. You have fun doing it and get a great sense of fulfillment for working for a great cause.

So whether it's leading a field trip or helping reach out to children in our education program. Whether it's helping save our wildlife habitat by joining our conservation committee or helping keep our office running by volunteering three hours a week at the office, it's all worthwhile, fun and rewarding. Please read the description of our various volunteer opportunities and then

fill out the accompanying sign-up form and join our wonderful band of volunteers at the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Conservation Committee: There are both East Bay and San Francisco Committees. They each hold two hour monthly meetings. Members write letters, testify at agency meetings, write articles for the Gull or just come to the Conservation Committee meetings to keep informed.

Field Trips: You need to know birds to lead a field trip but you don't have to be the greatest bird expert. If you bird an area frequently and know most of the birds you see there, that's all it takes to lead one of our beginning birder field trips and these are ones we really need.

We also would like to start a family field trip program so if you have kids and would like to lead them and other families on field trips please give us a call.

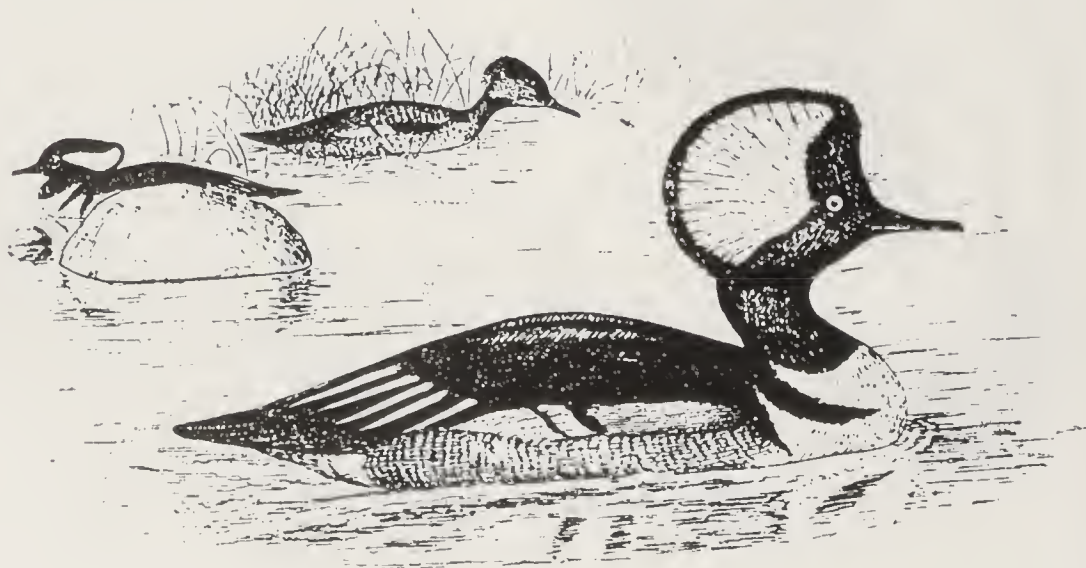
Office Help:

The Office is where GGAS meets the world. It is the hub of our organization and it depends a great deal on volunteer help. We are very much in need of Office volunteers at this moment. Volunteers usually work three hour a week.

You don't need any special knowledge to help in the Office. We have all the information you'll need readily at hand and we'll show you where to find it. When people call needing help because a baby bird has fallen out of a nest or because they have found an injured bird, you'll know where to get the information you need to help them.

Some folks will want to know where to bird, some will want to buy bird seed. We'll show you where to find the information and how to sell the seed. It's all easy to do and you'll meet and talk to fascinating and enjoyable people.

Perhaps you want to learn some computer skills. We always



We've Got Just What You Want

need to have data entered into our computer. Or perhaps you'll want to write letters responding to conservation issues or to respond to people's questions. Whatever level of involvement you want in the Office, we can meet your interests.

Please consider joining our Program Coordinator Arthur Feinstein and the other Office volunteers in helping to keep our Office well-staffed and functioning.

Welcoming Committee:

How can we make new members feel more welcome in the GGAS? How do we make our General Meetings (our slide show events) and our other get-togethers more sociable? These are just some of the tasks awaiting our Welcome Committee. It can be a challenge but also lots of fun organizing our events and making them more people-friendly.

Education Committee:

Help us reach out to the younger members of our community. Become a Chickadee Club docent and take our slide show on birds into local classrooms (we have a script and the slides) and then take interested children and parents from those classes on a short field trip. This program has been a great success and both docents, children, and parents loved it. Or help us keep our Audubon Adventures Program organized. There's lots to do limited only by our imagination.

Become a GGAS Volunteer

Please fill out the following form and become a GGAS volunteer. A rewarding and pleasurable experience awaits you.

YES I would like to help GGAS in its efforts to enjoy and to save our natural world. I would like to help GGAS by:

1) Joining the Conservation Committee:

☐ Yes, I want to join the Conservation Committee and help save our natural world. I try to attend one 2 hour meeting each month

2) Leading Field Trips:

☐ Yes, I would love to lead a field trip.

3) Helping in the Office:

☐ Yes, I would like to help out in the Office. I can fill a three hour time slot on the following day:

Tuesday ☐ 9AM-12AM
☐ 1-4 PM

Wednesday ☐ 9-12AM
☐ 1-4 PM

Thursday ☐ 9-12 AM
☐ 1-4 PM

Friday ☐ 9-12 AM
☐ 1-4 PM

(We can always work out other times slots to meet your needs.)

4) Joining the Welcoming Committee

☐ Yes I'd like to be a member of the Welcoming Committee

5) Joining the Education Committee

☐ Yes, I want to join the Education Committee.

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER



Field Trips Calendar

GAS field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 SAN MATEO COAST

Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of San Gregorio State Beach (near the junction of Highways 1 and 84). We will bird at Pescadero in the morning and at Ano Nuevo in the afternoon. We will look for migrants and shorebirds in the mudflats, plus Pectoral and Baird's Sandpipers and tattlers and knots. We may also see Marbled Murrelets at Ano Nuevo. Bring lunch and liquids. Be prepared for cool weather. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415)664-0983. \$ (*)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9 MINI-TRIP TO EAST BAY SHORELINE.

New meeting place due to construction: Take Interstate 80 to Powell Street exit, then north on the frontage road until you come to a boulevard stop. Turn left into a small paved parking lot, which will be our meeting place. Meet at 9:15. We will look for migrants and shorebirds and whatever else shows up. Last year our observations included



both Ruddy and Black Turnstones. Heavy rain cancels. Lunch optional. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301) and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12 STRYBING ARBORETUM, GOLDEN GATE PARK

For this one-half day trip meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the arboretum (near Ninth Ave. and Lincoln Way). We will look for birds in the various habitats of the arboretum, including Red-shouldered Hawks, Red-breasted Sapsuckers, and White-throated Sparrows. Beginners and all others welcome. Leader: Alan Ridley (415) 566-3241.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 ALAMEDA AND SAN LEANDRO SHORELINE.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. in Alameda at Broadway and Shoreline Drive. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Sanctuary. Shorebirds should be present in numbers, so bring a

spotting scope in you have one. Bring lunch and liquids. The afternoon will be spent visiting interesting and less frequented shorebird hot spots. Leader: Leora Feeney (510) 522-8525. (*)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 NINTH ANNUAL POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE ALL-DAY FALL BIRDING BLITZ. (JOINT ACTIVITY: GGAS & NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.)

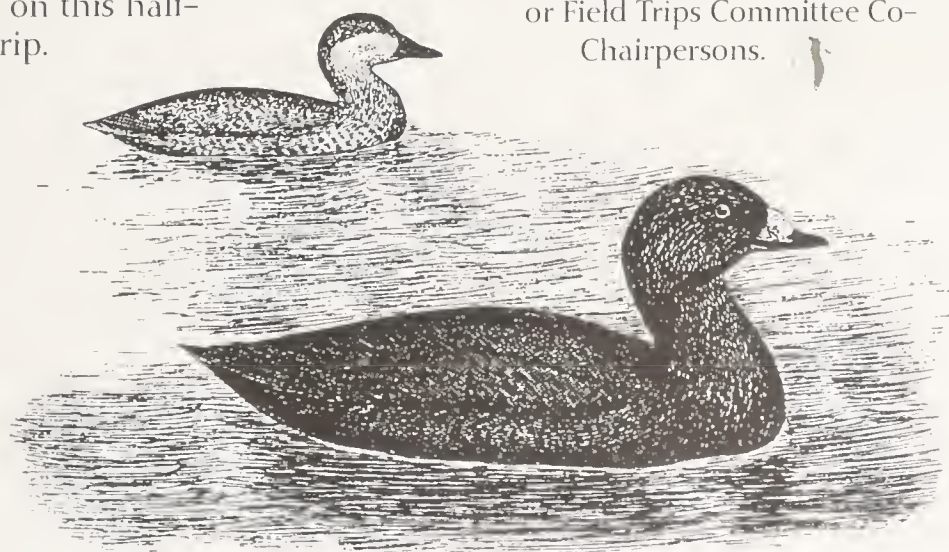
Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Five Brooks Trailhead parking lot (about 3.5 miles south of Olema on Highway 1). We will bird the Five Brooks Pond area, Limantour Spit, Drakes Beach, Chimney Rock and Point Reyes, ending at Bear Valley for a multi-habitat trip. This fast paced trip should produce approximately 100 species. Bring food, water, and layered clothing for variable weather. Leaders: Leon Abrams (415) 453-9980 (work), (510)843-4107 (home); and Cathy Purchis (510)865-9482. (*)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20
COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL
PARK.**

Meet at 9:00a.m. in the parking lot on the left (beyond the fee booth). From the East Bay take I-880 south to Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Turn right and continue west. Exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north one mile to Patterson Ranch Road and follow signs to Coyote Hills. Bring lunch, liquids, and field guides if you have them. This is a unique park with fresh water and salt pond habitat. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Peter Allen (415)892-8063. \$ (*)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26
HAYWARD REGIONAL
SHORELINE**

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the visitor center on Breakwater Avenue. Take I 880 to Hwy 92 (Hayward/San Mateo Bridge Exit). Exit at Clawiter, cross Clawiter onto Breakwater Ct. Turn left onto Breakwater Ave. We should see a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds on this half-day trip.



(Visitor center opens at 10:00.)
Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 595-8319. (*)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8
MINI-TRIP TO AQUATIC
PARK, BERKELEY, AND OTHER
NEARBY AREAS.**

Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the northwest corner of Spenger's Restaurant parking lot (4th and Hearst St.) to carpool. We should see returning shorebirds and migratory ducks. Lunch optional. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510)351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Carpooling arrangements will be attempted for trips marked with a (*). See below.

Problems: If you need a ride or can take a passenger, or if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, call Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167 or Jim Leak (510) 838-8964, or Field Trips Committee Co-Chairpersons.

**This month's
GGAS
program:
Costa Rica**

**It's more than just the
coasts that are rich**

Experienced travelers, Costa Rica bird and natural history guides, Helen McKenna and Allan Ridley will be joining us at our October member meeting to talk about adventure traveling in Costa Rica. They will show slides of outstanding destinations for birding, wildlife observation, hiking, rafting, snorkeling and relaxing amid the diverse tropical ecosystems of this fascinating country. A meeting place for avifauna from the North and South American continents, over 850 species of birds have been recorded in Costa Rica. The year-round brilliant plumage of many tropical species, curious behaviors and highly specialized adaptations make tropical bird watching especially exciting and when the setting is filled with an enormous diversity of plant and animal species (monkeys are common as well as over 300 species of breeding butterflies), it all becomes a truly wondrous experience for the nature-minded traveler.

So come to the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way in San Francisco on October 10, at 7:50 p.m. and enjoy this wonderful view into Central America. Bring your questions and concerns about travel in out-of-the-way areas and about Costa Rica in particular.

Black Ties Not Required

Continued from page one

Circosta Iron and Metal Co. of San Francisco, have generously donated all of the sheet metal needed for the collars. SFBBO is providing all of the volunteers for the installation work and GGAS is providing the other materials necessary to complete the job.

This project was inspired by the great success that Audubon Canyon Ranch has had with tree collars after experiencing the same raccoon problem with its heron and egret nests. Four hundred collars were installed at the ranch's heron rookery in 1983. "We had two major episodes with raccoons preying on the herons' nests," explains Skip Schwartz, executive director of the Audubon Canyon ranch, "one in 1975 and the other in '83 which prompted us to take action." But since their instillation, Schwartz says that the collars have done their job 100%. "We haven't had a raccoon problem in the colony



since." He also predicts that the Stow Lake herons will benefit just as well from the collars.

Contributions for the tree collars will be gratefully accepted through the GGAS office.

Also, Tom Henry, nature photographer and SFBBO member, will be hosting a slide show about the Stow Lake heron colony as part of the Natural History Series sponsored by the Randall Museum. It will be shown at the Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way, Thursday December 5 at 7:30. Admission will be free.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

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Come to our General Meeting Slide Show - See page 11.